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4/1/05

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 - (currently amended)  
Claim 2 - (canceled)  
Claim 3 - (previously canceled)  
Claim 4 - (previously canceled)  
Claim 5 - (original)  
Claim 6 - (original)  
Claim 7 - (original)  
Claim 8 - (currently amended)  
Claim 9 - (canceled)  
Claim 10 - (previously canceled)  
Claim 11 - (previously canceled)  
Claim 12 - (new)

1. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward tongue hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue extending forwards therefrom, said forward tongue being pivotable between a retracted position in general parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said measuring tape, said outer end of said forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings;